



## CSBG Success Story

Please submit success story to Mandalyn Mackey at [mandalyn.mackey@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:mandalyn.mackey@commerce.wa.gov). If you have questions, contact Mandalyn at 360-725-2854. Due Date: The 10<sup>th</sup> of the month the story is due.

**Date:** January 10, 2010

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Neighborhood House
<b>Contact Person/Title:</b>	Nathan Buck
<b>Contact E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:nathanb@nhwa.org">nathanb@nhwa.org</a>
<b>Contact Phone #:</b>	(206) 461-8430

<b>1. Success Story is for:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ARRA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FFY 09 (skip to question 7) <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 10 (skip questions 5 & 6)
<b>2. CSBG Project Name:</b>	Foundations for Work
<b>3. Project Budget:</b>	Total budget \$188,371; CSBG funding: \$13,915
<b>4. Number of clients expected to serve:</b>	150 clients enrolled in ongoing placement and training; 51 placed in jobs to date.
<b>5. Number of jobs expected to be created/retained as a result of this project:</b>	
<b>6. Number of jobs actually created/retained as a result of this project to date:</b>	
<b>7. Brief project/activity description:</b>	<p>The process of achieving self-sufficiency involves not just finding a livable wage job, but achieving income security over time. Neighborhood House Foundations for Work primarily serves refugee and immigrant communities who are particularly impacted by the economic downturn as the availability of jobs has shifted. This shift has created the need for a focus on job readiness training, resume assistance and ESL classes. While the refugee and immigrant community has a great many people with diverse work and life experiences, barriers to employment still exist. Employment specialists work hard to place clients in jobs that provide financial stability for essential needs while working on long term career planning. Through a comprehensive network of programs and services, job seekers can access education and training; along with linkages to housing support, child care, food stamps, and transportation. This program is designed to serve both "high intensity" and "low intensity" clients, so many clients are on a longer track to employment.</p>

**8. How will this project help clients, build community and form new partnerships? What aspects of the project would you like to share with the public:**

Foundations For Work has built new program partnerships to deliver new and innovative services for clients. New services/partnerships include:

- Express Credit Union and Bank On Seattle – in-class financial literacy training sessions, one-on-one counseling and culturally competent service offerings. –
- Highline Community College – co-created curriculum development for in-house vocational ESL offerings for clients
- Seattle Community College District – clients have participated in in-demand vocational training that is credit-based and credential-earning, such as LPN, Accounting, Culinary Arts, Automotive Technician and Accounting. Many are from leveraged sources of funding through Basic Food Employment & Training, Opportunity and Pell grants and Workforce Investment Act.
- Seattle and King County Housing Authority – co-case management and housing counseling of clients with housing instability.
- YWCA – Clients utilize computer lab in Greenbridge area for resumes, online job search and technology skill upgrades.

**Helping clients achieve stability**

Along with employment placements, we have worked diligently to alleviate housing instability for our Foundations for Work clients, including working closely with the Seattle Housing Authority. One client in particular had been living in a one bedroom apartment at Seattle Emergency Housing with her six children (including a newborn baby). With assistance and advocacy from her Neighborhood House, the client moved into subsidized 4-bedroom duplex apartment from SHA. Having a home will help her in creating a sense of stability for herself and her family so she can focus on job readiness training and career development in the near future.

**Helping clients re-enter the world of work**

- A client who hailed from Somalia had a great deal of experience in the accounting field. Neighborhood House worked intensively with him to provide labor market counseling, sector-appropriate resume assistance and job interview preparation. The client was hired at Alpha Flag and Banner as an Accountant making \$18/hour and is still retained in this position. As an older worker, this client's accomplishment was especially important.

**Helping clients work on career advancement**

- A recent Kenyan immigrant arrived in Seattle this past October. Neighborhood House began working with him later that month. This included one-on-one sessions that focused on resume assistance, interviewing skills and career exploration that made sense for him and his family. In November, he was hired part time at Whole Foods with a wage \$11/hour. After working there a few weeks, the Whole

Foods management was so impressed by his performance, he was offered a full-time position as a dishwasher. His supervisor shared potential advancement opportunities for him. He accepted with an eye toward a career pathway in hospitality, an in-demand field with options even in the struggling economy. Finally, he is now able to save money to move into his own apartment in the near future.